

Health Alert:

Health Alert
6/15/07

Health Department Imposter

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This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**FROM: JANE DRUMMOND
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SUBJECT: Health Department Imposter

Subject: Local Health Department Imposter Targeting Families With Newborns

The Washington County Health Department has reported that a man with a fake Washington County Health Department badge has been knocking on residential doors in the county and identifying himself as representing the local health department and responsible for assessing newborns.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism wants to alert all local public health agencies of this situation. If you receive any information of such a person or persons in your jurisdiction posing as a local public health official, contact your local law enforcement immediately. All local law enforcement agencies are receiving this information and should be aware of the situation as well.

Below is the media release provided by the Washington County Health Department that will be released in conjunction with the county sheriff and city police departments.

Health Department Imposter Targeting Families With Newborns

Today the Washington County Health Department announced that the department has been notified that a man has been knocking on residential doors in the county and identifying himself as representing the Health Department and responsible for assessing newborns. The man has a fake health department identification badge with the name Joshua on it. The Health Department wants county residents to know that this person is not employed at the Health Department and is in no way affiliated with the agency. The man is described as approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall, under 20 years of age, with brown hair, brown eyes and last seen wearing a polo shirt and kaki shorts. He is driving a silver 4 door vehicle.

The Health Department warns that if you are approached by someone alleging they represent the department you must ask for, and carefully review the person's identification. Also, anyone with any information about the man described above should contact the Washington County Sheriffs Department at (573) 438-5478. Anyone with further questions can contact the Washington County Health Department at _____